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AUTHOR Guodong, Wang
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ABSTRACT

Today in China it is the homeroom teacher who plays the important role in psychological counseling. This paper discusses the development of homeroom teachers and the many roles they take on in schools. It states that the homeroom teacher is a leader, organizer, and manager who is the main person to carry on the national educational policy, the educational and teaching plan for the school, the link of the home to the school, and promote student development. The paper lists the requirements for the homeroom teachers, their objectives, and responsibilities. Responsibilities related to psychological counseling include moral education, understanding and helping students who lag behind, guidance of student learning, guidance of personal relationships, guidance of psychological problems, guidance of physical and health problems, and guidance of careers and future education. Some of the methods used by homeroom teachers include one-on-one counseling, class meetings, group discussion, lectures, and visiting with families. It summarizes that the homeroom teacher system makes it possible for teachers to know more about their students and provides ways to solve problems in a timely manner. (JDM)

The Homeroom Teacher's Role in Psychological Counseling at School

Wang Guodong

The assistant fellow and the vice-director of educational psychology department of Beijing Institute of Elementary Educational Research of Beijing Academy of Education Science who has nine-year educational research experiences in fields of School Psychology and Educational Psychology. And now is the member of the council of Beijing Educational Theory Society for the Young and Middle.

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Introduction

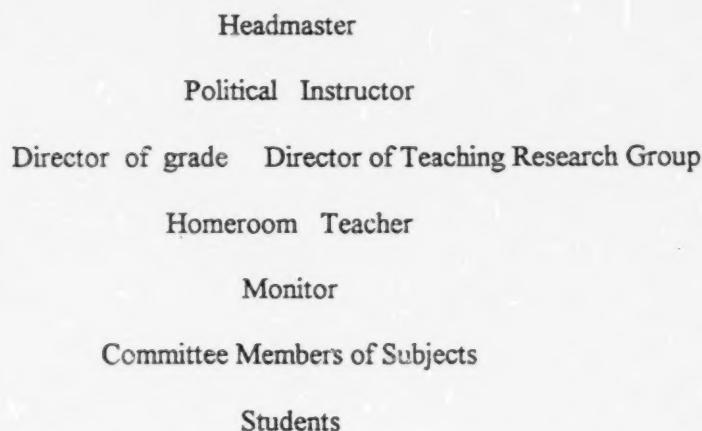
In history of Chinese General Education it is recent years that attentions are paid to psychological counseling in school gradually by the administrative and teachers. Now more and more teachers, who have high rich experiences in teaching and student work tried to apply the school psychological counseling in their school work. Today there is not still any psychological service provided by school psychologist in China. But it does not mean that there is not psychological counseling at school. In retrospect to history of Chinese General Education we can find that the homeroom teachers play the important role in Psychological Counseling at School. Then the question is that who the homeroom teachers are? A homeroom teacher is a leader, organizer and manager of one class who is the main body to carry on national educational policy, and is the effective aid of leaders in school to carry on educational and teaching plan in school, and to promote student development in all-round-way. A homeroom teacher is also the bridge among the school, family and society.

I. Structure of the homeroom teacher system

The development of the homeroom teachers in China can be traced from "proctor" in 1903, who mainly took charge of moral education of whole school. After 1919 one director of grade for each grade appeared and then in 1938 one "class tutor" for each class. It is after New China establishment that "class tutor" was changed into "homeroom teacher".

Today in China there is one homeroom teacher for each class who is selected from the teachers of the class by the headmaster. Under leading of political instructor, the homeroom teachers mainly take charge of coordinating with other teachers of all subjects and giving the guidance of life and learning to the students in his own class. In the class there is one monitor who is the aid of the homeroom teacher and take responsibility for management of the class such as class discipline and class activities. And there are several committee members of each subject in the class. The homeroom teacher usually keeps on taking responsibility for the students in a class from their entering in school to graduating. Therefore, in primary school a homeroom teacher usually keeps as the homeroom teacher

of one class for six years and in junior or senior middle school respectively for three years. The following diagram indicates the brief structure of the homeroom teacher system.



II. Requirements for the homeroom teachers

- .They should have high qualities of politic, ideology and moral.
- .They should love the teaching job and students.
- .They should have wide and rich professional knowledge and educational theories.
- .They must have the following professional abilities:
 - assiduously study and construct teaching material
 - understand and study their students
 - organize educational activities
 - speak and write in good and clear Chinese
 - do educational research

III. The homeroom teacher's educational objectives

The homeroom teachers are not only teachers of subjects but also the leaders, organizers and educator of their class. They take responsibilities for their students' ideology, learning and life etc.. Daily management work of the class for the homeroom teachers are as following:

- .Daily lives of students in class
- .Ideology of students in class
- .learning actives of students in class
- .Discipline of students in class
- .Out of class actives

.Managing cadres in class
.changing the students who lag behind

Based on the educational policy requirements, their main objective is to enable their students to develop morally, intellectually, physically and aesthetically and make them become as qualified socialist citizen with ideology, moral, civilization and discipline. It can be well understood by the following according to The Temporary Regulations of Primary School (draft).

Morally: to enable the students to be imbued with patriotic thinking, social morality, and to have good qualities such as honesty, bravery, spirit of solidarity and mutual aid, and abiding discipline;

Intellectually: to enable the students to obtain the basic ability of reading, writing and counting as well as the basic knowledge of society and nature;

Physically: to enable the students to have a strong constitution with a happy and gay heart, to have basic hygienic knowledge and hygienic habits;

Aesthetically: to enable the students to have a sense of beauty, a preliminary ability to appreciate the arts.

IV. The homeroom teacher's responsibilities related to psychological counseling

Moral education

According to different age of students, the homeroom teachers educate their students to have good qualities such as honesty, bravery, spirit of solidarity and mutual aid, and abiding discipline through the following education contents :

.Patriotism education

.Loving collective

.Loving science

.Norm habits

.Temper the students' willpower

.Democracy and laws education

Comprehend and help the students who lag behind

The students who lag behind are defined as those who can not meet requirements of education objective of ideology, moral or learning. How to change these students is the main and important work of the homeroom teachers. The homeroom teachers usually take long time to help these students to find and solve their problem by "face to face talk" or by visiting family.

Guidance of the student Learning

More attentions are paid to every student's learning by the homeroom teachers. The homeroom teachers are required to know every student's whole situations of learning such as his academic records, learning attitude, interest and skill. They take responsibilities for stimulating the student's learning motivation and developing the students' learning ability

and good learning habit as well as promoting their learning efficiency. The homeroom teachers are ready at all time to provide the aid with the students who need it.

Guidance of personal relationship

For the homeroom teachers, to find, solve and take precautions against the relationship conflict among the peers, between teacher and student or between parent and student is one of important work.

Guidance of psychological problems

Psychological problems like problems of adolescence, life press, test press and anxiety are concerned by the Homeroom teacher. They often help the student to solve their psychological problems.

Guidance of Physical and healthy

The homeroom teachers also take charge of training the students to form good habit of personal hygiene and correct the bad habit

Guidance of choosing school and career

The homeroom teachers usually give the students some advice on choosing the school to enter when the students graduate or give the guidance of career to the students who will graduate from the senior middle school.

V. Methods used in the homeroom teachers' work

Many kinds of methods are used by the homeroom teachers during their counseling work. It is widely acceptable fact that "loving student" is the most important foundation for the homeroom teachers to solve the student's problem. The best method can not solve the simple problem of the students if the homeroom teaches have not the sense of loving student. The methods are mainly as following:

Face to face talk

Face to face talk is the main method often used by the homeroom teachers. When a student have the problem he may ask his homeroom teacher to have talk with him. and help him realize his problem and find its solution. The homeroom teacher is always open for all his students. In fact it is case that the homeroom teachers often decide who will need have talk with him. The talk place may be in the homeroom teacher's office, in classroom or in campus.

One-help-one

When one student needs help or the homeroom teacher considers him need help, the

homeroom teacher may let another student help this student. For instance, a top student may be asked by his homeroom teacher to help another student who lag behind by exchanging learning experience each other. The top student's work is usually under guidance of the homeroom teacher. It will not finished until the poor student changes.

Sample

The homeroom teacher uses one of historical persons or the student peers etc. as an sample for the students and ask them learn or imitate the sample.

Keynote class meeting

According to the need of students, the homeroom teacher set up a subject and let the class students discussion it among themselves. With the guidance of the homeroom teacher the student finally find the problem and its solution by themselves.

Group discussion

The students discuss with the homeroom teachers, good students or professional such as psychologist and educator on a certain subject.

Lecture

One of those such as teachers of the subjects, psychologist or educator is invited to give lecture to the students.

Visiting student family

The homeroom teachers regularly visit the student families and cooperate with family to provide students with various of aid.

The homeroom teacher system play an important role in Chinese General Education. Its effective system structure and diverse work methods make it possible for the homeroom teacher to know more about his students, and find and solve the problem of students in time. With the studying and applying of modern psychological counseling technology in their school work, we make sure that the homeroom teachers' work will be more effective.

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